

California GARDEN

FORTY-SECOND YEAR

WINTER 1951

VOLUME 42, NO. 4

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Quarterly by the
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Under the sponsorship of
The Park and Recreation Dept.,
City of San Diego

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Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879, The California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association. Subscriptions to the California Garden, \$1.00 per year: Foreign Countries and Canada, \$1.25.

Advertising rates furnished on request.

Address all communications to:
Managing Editor,
San Diego Floral Association
Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Calif.

Subscribers will please notify Postmaster and California Garden of any change of address.



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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, the following meetings will be held in the Floral Association Building, southwest of the Organ in Balboa Park.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 . . . 8 p.m.

Regular Meeting

JANUARY

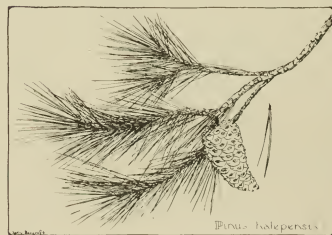
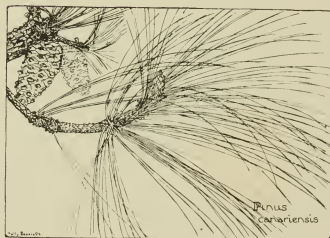
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 . . . 8 p.m.

Regular Meeting

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 . . . 8 p.m.

Regular Meeting



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California Garden

FORTY-SECOND YEAR

WINTER, 1951

VOLUME 42, NO. 4

At the Yule season San Diegans are blessed with their own wealth of Christmas trees in fabulous Balboa Park, as pointed out by Joanne James, State College student and member of the staff of the Museum of Natural History. We are indebted to Sally Bancroft, a regular contributor to California Garden, for the illustrations.

Christmas Trees of Balboa Park

JOANNE JAMES

Christmas is with us again and although we cannot anticipate a sleigh ride in the snow we are fortunate in having in our own Balboa Park living Christmas trees from many parts of the world. A short walk through the conifer planting east of Sixth Avenue will show the varied types of trees which could be called living Christmas trees.

Among the more numerous of the conifers found here are members of the Pine Family. This family is interesting not only for the beauty and desirability of its members for park plantings, but also for its great economic importance to man. In the Pine Family are included the cedars, pines, cypresses, junipers, and the redwoods.

The pines are especially noteworthy for their large number of species, the extent of areas which they occupy and their economic importance. Pines are native only to the Northern Hemispheres but can be found there from the arctic to the tropics. Pines are essentially light-needing inhabitants of poor, sandy soils and dry situations, for only a few species can endure a surplus of water.

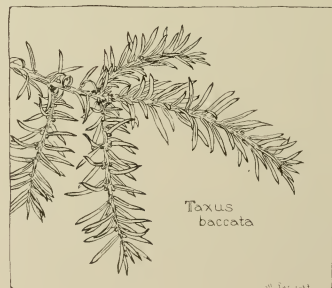
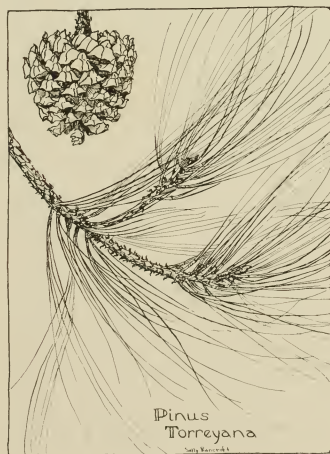
One of the most beautiful of the pines is the Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*). As its name implies, this pine is native to the Canary Islands. The Canary Island Pine is relatively fast growing and may reach a height of 80 feet. The branches are spreading and pendulous, generously covered with lustrous light green leaves nine to 12 inches in length. Rocky and dry locations are favorable to its growth and it is recommended for seashore planting. Large trees may be found near Sixth and Spruce Streets and on the lawn near Maple and Sixth Streets.

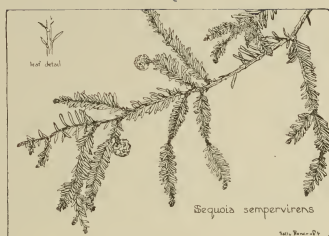
The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) from the Mediterranean region, grows to a height of 60 feet. Its slender branchlets, yellowish or light greenish brown form an open, round-topped head. This pine also is recommended for seashore planting. Aleppo Pines may be found throughout the park with some of the older specimens being

found in the conifer planting near Sixth and Nutmeg Streets.

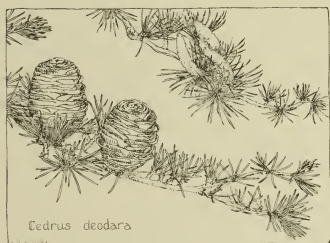
Of especial interest to San Diegans is the Soledad or Torrey Pine (*Pinus Torreyana*) which was discovered in San Diego County in 1850. In cultivation, this pine can hardly be recognized as the small, distorted tree of its native habitat. The spreading and sometimes ascending branches with long glabrous leaves in bundles of five, make this a handsome tree, although it is rarely cultivated. The Torrey Pine is known to host the common Pine-leaf Scale, and the Pine-needle Mite. Both of these pests can be controlled by spraying. There is a good planting of these trees in the Golden Hill Section of the park overlooking the 17th hole of the golf course.

Holding the record as the world's tallest tree, the Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) deserves mention here. A native of California, this handsome rapid-growing tree is in cultivation as an





ornamental in Europe, California, and to a limited extent in the Eastern States. It appears to thrive best in cool, moist districts. Linear leaves spreading in flat sprays, extremely thick bark, and crown sprouting are characteristic of the Redwood. Numerous plant pests are known to be found on the Redwood. Among them are the Citrus and Redwood Mealybugs, Redwood Scale, common Anthrax Beetle, Redwood Borer, Redwood Bark Beetle, Sequoia Pitch Moth, Fungus Moth and the Western Horntail. Fortunately, natural



enemies play an important part in control. One tree can be seen in the Pepper Grove Picnic Grounds, and there is a grove northeast of the Bowling Green off 7th Street.

Perhaps the most striking of the conifers are the cedars. These large evergreen trees are prized for their striking habit and as a valuable timber tree. The cedars are represented by only three closely allied species in North Africa, Asia Minor, and the Himalayas. There are no cedars native to the Western Hemisphere. Most cedars do not tolerate much cold and seem to prefer well-drained and

loamy soil.

The Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) from the Himalayas, is extensively planted in California. It is a tall graceful tree which may attain a height of 150 feet. With its green or yellow green foliage, spreading branches, and pyramidal habit it is an ideal living Christmas tree. Unfortunately this tree is not hardy except in the Southern States and California. Black Scale has been known to attack the Deodar Cedar, but can be controlled by native and introduced natural enemies. The Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) and its many varieties is a more vigorous form which can tolerate a colder climate. In Balboa Park Deodar Cedars may be found in a grove on each side of Eighth Street just north of the Central fire station. Atlas Cedars may be found in a group on each side of Quince Street near Sixth Avenue.

Members of the Yew Family are cultivated for their foliage and their scarlet fruits. Although they are slow growers, they are well suited for hedges since they will trim well to desired shapes. Yews can endure shade and prefer a moderately moist sandy loam.

The best representative of the Yew Family in Balboa Park is the English Yew (*Taxus baccata*). This tree attains a height of 60 feet, with a short trunk, dark green foliage, and branches forming a compact crown. Many garden forms of this tree can be obtained. The English Yew is known to host Purple Scale. There are three specimens in the park in the conifer grove near Sixth and Nutmeg.

These are but a few of the many conifers to be found in Balboa Park. The writer will point out these and many more in the nature walk to be conducted December 22.

Sydney B. Mitchell

1871 - 1951

Born and educated in Canada, Sydney B. Mitchell came to California in 1909, at the request of Stanford University Library. Two years later he began his devoted service to the University of California Library, retiring in 1946 as Dean of the Graduate School of Librarianship.

Despite an engrossing vocation, Professor Mitchell found time for a garden career. Iris were ever his dominant interest. He created many of our finest hybrids and more are still in the making. His home in Berkeley, always a magnet for horticulturists, was a veritable Mecca for Iris fans. In 1949, at 71, he wrote his instructive book, "Iris for Every Garden."

By travel, research and importations, S. B. M. also promoted daffodils and fuchsias. He co-sponsored the American Fuchsia Society in 1929. Other volumes, "Gardening in California," "From a Sunset Garden," and "Your California Garden and Mine," showed his intense desire to enhance the beauty of his adopted state.

In 1940, Sydney Mitchell, president of the California Horticultural Society of San Francisco, founded and edited its "Journal," a scientific quarterly that has become an invaluable storehouse of western horticulture. When Cora Brandt became editor in April, 1940, she drew an inspiring word-portrait of her mentor. He passed on last October.

Sydney B. Mitchell has left us added wealth of floral beauty, a spirit that is embodied in the charm of his printed words and an established "Journal" to carry on the garden work that was the very core of his being. God Speed!

Forest Supervisor Hamilton K. Pyles presents an intriguing and painless reforestation plan designed for adoption by clubs and organized groups.

A Penny a Pine

HAMILTON K. PYLES

Every catastrophic fire that leaves its sickening damage before the public eye brings in a mail bag of "what can we do to help" letters.

Many letters come from Clubs and Service Organizations who by charter devote their efforts to the use and welfare of our natural resources, or to general civic and national well being. Schools, churches and institutions of all kinds express the need for a concrete program in which they can participate, no matter how small, to recover some of the loss due to the carelessness or maliciousness of others.

This public awareness and spirit of democracy that pitches in with combined effort to replenish a dwindling resource is a wonderful thing that must be nurtured and encouraged.

Restoration of burned timbered land is such a big job and results are so slow in materializing that the average person is soon discouraged and turns to a more satisfying job of public service in which he can see some concrete good built up from his efforts. An organization, however, may have a timeless endeavor that fits a tree planting program.

Recently, to meet this need, the Forest Service in California developed a program known as the "Penny Pines."

Briefly, the plan is this: the organization contributes "a penny a tree" to pay for trees to be planted. Minimum contribution one may make is \$68, to be used to help plant 10 acres or more of trees on national-forest land in California. Spacing used is 8 x 8 feet, 680 trees

per acre.

The U. S. Forest Service will do the planting, provide the same protection from fires, insects and disease as is given other reforested areas, and will mark the plantation with a standard Forest Service sign which will bear the name of the group. A suitable certificate will also be presented the sponsoring organization.

The plantings are made as a part of the regular reforestation program in the national forests. Administratively, as one probably can well appreciate, it is not practical that the sponsor select the location of Penny Pines Plantations. Plantations are ordinarily made in the Eldorado, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Stanislaus and Tahoe National Forests. A map is issued along with the certificate which will show how the plantation may be reached. The Forest Service does not guarantee the degree of success of the plantation since factors of soil, moisture, natural enemies, etc., are variable. Since the bookkeeping job involved would be considerable, reports cannot be furnished the sponsor, although field examinations are made as a part of the ranger's work.

Contributions must come from a group; contributions from individuals will not be accepted. Plantations are the property of the people of the United States and are managed accordingly.

A sample of the type of cooperative agreement appears on the next page.

Several organizations in San Diego County have been interested and have cooperated in this pro-

gram. The main objection has been the old adage that "charity begins at home" and no part of the country needs trees any more than San Diego County. It's up to the Cleveland National Forest to develop its own Penny Pines Program.

This proposal raises a few problems of its own. First of all, trees grown in large Forest Service nurseries in Northern California at a very nominal cost are not doing so well in bare root planting in San Diego County, even though the specie (*Pinus jeffreyi*) grows locally. Secondly, the Forest Service Timber boys are in the business of growing trees for commercial use and look in askance at expending tree stock on marginal sites. Thirdly, the cost of collecting seed germinating, developing nursery stock and planting will amount to great deal more than a penny a pine. (We favor planting *P. Coulteri*, *P. attenuata*, local incense cedar (*libocedrus decurrens*), forbes cypress and for hardwoods, black locust (*gloditsia triacanthos*).

Solution offered to organizations that prefer to contribute to a local plantation is now similar to Penny Pines contribution of \$68.00, with the exception that the plantation plot size will be cut to fit the additional costs of limited production. Planting will be largely balled root planting except on the very best sites.

This year 2,000 coulter pines, 500 incense cedar and 2,500 Jeffrey Pine are on hand for winter planting. First priority job will be a 40 acre burn in Laguna Mt. timber area which reverted to brush in 1944, following a timber fire in 1943.

More detailed information on the Cleveland Forest and Planting Program is available at Forest Service Headquarters.

Mrs. Perkins advises what we have always wanted to do—use flowers in our

Self-Adornment

FLORENCE SESSIONS PERKINS

Since the day that Eve adorned herself with fig leaves, women have been constantly arranging flowers and leaves to beautify themselves. Primitive woman wore crowns of wild flowers and the woman of fashion today follows in her steps.

Now we are urged to express our own individuality and personality in every art. This is especially true in personal flower adornment. It must be a part of us!

Luxurious living is the order of the day. Dress up to it! Women are bedecked with jewels and unusual care is given every detail. Accessories have assumed a new importance and flowers are a very important part of it all.

We are living in an age of color consciousness. Color fundamentals

apply to each phase of everyday life. Dress, gloves, shoes, hat, bag and flowers all bear a definite color relation to one another, and most definitely to the seasons of the year.

Springtime is a giddy time, so why not let the flowers go to our heads? A bit of floral fluff of maline, a few jewels, a rose or two, or a gardenia, a few carnations with violets will make a social event an occasion. A ribbon, perhaps velvet, around the throat with a small cluster of flowers is an inspired touch. Try gladioli blooms with a few violets and be as bewitching as our grandmother was.

With autumn and winter comes the trend of suit styles, with a wealth of design on the jacket

front. The change of styles in clothes changes the style of floral adornment. Flowers must complement the lines of any garment. The floral accent on the shoulder with a neatly curved corsage of feathered carnations gives an interesting touch. Whatever the suit design, a neckline corsage of ivy leaves and cypripediums is a morale builder. The tailored suit calls for a simple corsage. Leaves of geraniums, ivy, camellias and roses, with a single flower make a delightful accessory.

Learn the art of placing a flower on the dress, in the hair or at the waistline! Get rhythm in color effect! Watch for the color in the center of the flowers, and this will help in choosing another flower for color arrangement. Live one day at a time, and make each one important! Nature is generous in her gift of flowers. Use them! Have fun "dressing up" with a floral accent for your own satisfaction and the pleasure of those who will enjoy seeing you. Let us bedeck ourselves with Nature's beautiful blossoms and appreciate every leaf and flower provided for our personal beautification.

In recent years there has grown up in this country a cult of misguided people who call themselves "organic farmers" and who would—if they could—destroy the chemical fertilizer industry on which so much of our agriculture depends.

The positive side of their ridiculous dogma is a flat claim that organic matter alone is the answer to better crops and improved nutrition.

—R. I. Throckmorton
The Country Gentleman
September, 1951

(SAMPLE)
COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT
for
PENNY PINES PLANTATION

Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco 11, California

Date

Dear Sir:

We wish to participate in financing the reforestation of an area in the national forests of California for the purpose of advancing conservation and to assist in the improvement of the national forests under the Act of April 24, 1950, Public Law 478.

We understand that upon a contribution of \$68.00 or more to cover a part of the cost, the Forest Service will establish a plantation for us on a national forest in California. It is also our understanding that our share of the cost will be \$6.80 per acre, which will provide approximately 680 trees for each acre of planting.

The Forest Service will provide the usual protection from fire, insects, and other hazards, just as is done for other national-forest areas. The Forest Service will also mark the plantation with a standard Forest Service sign. We desire the name of our group, as sponsor, to appear on the sign as follows:

.....
The plantation is to be the property of the people of the United States as a part of the national forest where it is located.

Payment will be mailed to: Fiscal Agent, U. S. Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, in an amount not less than \$68.00. Draft will be made payable to: Treasurer of the United States.

The amount contributed shall be available for use until expended.

(Signed)

Very truly yours,
THIS IS A SAMPLE ONLY

Address

APPROVED:

Acting Regional Forester

Date

Section 3741, U. S. Revised Statutes prohibits the admission of any Member of or Delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner, to any share or part of this contract, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, unless it be made with a corporation for its general benefit.

Major Grant tears apart the reputation of the lowly angleworm in this reprint from *Nature Magazine*, August-Sept., 1951.

Debunking the Angleworm

CHAPMAN GRANT

Extravagant claims have recently been made about the value of the angleworm to agriculture. Some articles even stressed the possibility of hybridizing worms to serve "special purposes" and illustrated contrasting differences between plants grown with and without the aid of angleworms. Some of these articles were doubtless written in good faith, whereas others were plain Nature fakes—pictures and all. There may even be a clandestine connection between some "scientific" articles and the numerous advertisements by worm "farms," which sell this product to be "planted" in gardens to "fertilize" the soil.

Specific claims of the angleworms' virtues are that they "fertilize" the soil; they "aerate" it; they make it more absorbent; they bring subsoil to the surface—an act resembling "plowing"—; they "enhance the growth" of plants. Analysis of the facts may dispel some of the misstatements.

What is "fertility" of soil? Root hairs of plants absorb moisture and certain minerals, while above ground the foliage transpires gases. By the aid of sunlight and chlorophyll in green plants, the inert chemicals are synthesized into living matter. When the plant dies, or its leaves decay, the soil is "enriched" or "fertilized" only by the amount of the synthesized material that is returned to it. Return of vegetable matter to the soil may take years in the case of large logs, or a short period for lush vegetation.

With plenty of rain and sun, there is surprisingly little of the earth's surface that will not produce dense vegetation, whereas

scant vegetation under optimum conditions denotes the presence of unfavorable minerals, such as salt, and not an absence of angleworms. If the accumulating plant tissues are removed by harvesting, erosion or fire, or are eaten by animals or insects, the soil will become impoverished. If it all remains to form humus, the soil becomes richer and richer. Complete return never occurs, since countless forms of animal and bacterial life prey upon plant life, releasing part of the synthesized energy back into the atmosphere.

Commercial fertilizers are used to replenish the minerals that have become depleted, or to furnish components that exist in *insufficiently available* amounts, or to add missing "trace elements." For example, when chickens consume a ton of feed, they generate heat and they liberate energy, which disappear. The by-product, manure, weighs a small fraction of the ton of food that they ate.

The size of the tract of land required to produce sufficient feed for a given flock of chickens for a year would illustrate the so-called "balance of Nature." It is obvious that the chickens consume, utilize and liberate into thin air most of the food energy they eat, and that only a fraction is returned to the soil, in the form of manure. The flock may be in balance with the productivity of the area this year, but there has been a depletion of the soil amounting to the difference between the amount of feed used and the amount of manure that is again convertible into plants. Therefore, the tract would sustain fewer and fewer chickens per year; i.e. a changing "balance"

wherein the number of chickens supportable becomes smaller and smaller. The chickens have not enriched the land. They deplete it if their number is such as to consume *more* plant products than the plants in that area can synthesize, including the returned manure, of course. It would be more logical to refer to "feast or famine" than to an elusive "balance" in Nature.

An angleworm is a highly specialized animal. It cannot be cut up and regenerate the lost parts except to a limited extent; it cannot *eat* dirt; it cannot synthesize; it eats only organic matter that has been synthesized by sun and chlorophyll. How can an angleworm "enrich" the soil with any more success than the flock of chickens did? The angleworm has a great advantage over the chicken, in that it does not have to burn food to generate heat, but it does burn food in order to obtain the energy required in its body processes. To maintain a given number of worms in a given volume of earth will require replenishment of the food they eat. The worm must harvest plant tissue from the soil, and its droppings will contain less organic matter than the food it ate. Much energy has been dissipated.

The entire surface of the ocean is a garden of "plants," minute, chlorophyll-bearing, unicellular "animals." These are the source of the synthesized energy that builds up practically all marine products. The big fish eats the smaller one that ate the invertebrate, that ate the plant, which contained the synthesized energy—no angleworms present. Vast stretches of underwater and surface water plants throughout the

globe grow in profusion—and no angleworms. Parts of the swamps and flood plains of the Amazon, Ganges, Orinoco and Nile teem with vegetation—but no angleworms. Enormous areas are “desert” during part of the year, but “bloom” after rains — without angleworms. Giant redwoods, eucalyptus and forest trees in general are without surface roots, obtaining their minerals and water below the angleworm horizon, getting along nicely—without angleworms.

Did you ever dig angleworms for bait? If you did, you can remember that you had to look in *favorable places* for them. You never once thought that the worms created the favorableness of these places. You knew that behind the cow barn, in a spot that was moist from the run-off of a drinking trough, was the best place to get the worms. The worms did not bring the cows or the water, but multiplied in a favorable place and ate food that otherwise would have been available for plant growth. The worm dealer gives instructions about feeding the worms. He knows that if you place worms in soil lacking in organic matter they will starve to death. They cannot eat dirt or enrich the soil, but they undoubtedly can *hasten* decomposition of available vegetable matter, making the fraction that they do not dissipate more *immediately* usable by plants. In an orchard, where the time element is not so vital, the presence of angleworms is a distinct loss in fertility.

Photographs that show plants growing luxuriantly *with* worms, contrasted to stunted plants said to be free of worms, may be genuine, but the difference is due to the short duration of the experiment. If the test had lasted long enough for the dead vegetable mat-

ter to form mulch without angleworms, the result would show little difference, except from the added growth during the early part of the experiment. The expense of introducing angleworms put into commercial fertilizer would show better results. If organic fertilizer—animal manure—is introduced into angleworm-infested soil, a part of it will be consumed by the worms and thus lost to the plants.

The second virtue claimed for the angleworm is that of “aerating” the soil. In the first place, do plants use “air” through their deep roots? Oxygen needed by roots is obtained through surface roots. Has any experimenter ever found a greater amount of any gas in angleworm-infested soil than in non-infested soil? Did you ever see an open angleworm hole? If you were to run wires into soil and pull them out, leaving small holes, would this process hasten the “aeration” of the soil? It is doubtful, because it is even difficult to get fresh air into a room without cross ventilation, much less into an angle-worm burrow. The proportions of the different gases in the soil adjust themselves to approxi-

mately their proportion in the air above that soil, by the simple process of diffusion. Do angleworm holes help or hasten the drying of soil? If they did, they would be more often a detriment than a help, because more people are irrigating than draining their soil. Do angleworms help to drain soil? This virtue has not been claimed for them, but it would help, both for water storage in dry land and drainage in wet land. The angleworm cannot live in very wet soil, so there is no possibility of its aiding in lowering the water table. It has been stated, but not proven, that angleworm holes help absorb rainfall. It is doubtful whether an appreciable number of worms exist on an upland watershed. Their burrows occur largely in rich bottomland that does not need absorption. It has been stated that angleworms “sweeten” the soil. If soil is “sour,” actually *acid*, neither angleworms nor aeration will correct the situation. To neutralize acidity, use lime.

Angleworms are of value as bait, but their value to plant growing has never been proved. Facts point to their being, to some degree, an active enemy of plants.

Canyonside

EVELYN H. SHERMAN

There is a little white house at
the end of the street,
And its door is open wide.
The sun pours in, and the flowers
bloom
And its name is Canyonside.
It hangs on the edge of the valley's
brim—
High—like a swallow's nest,
Through wide open windows the
fresh airs blow,
And in the bright rooms, there is
rest.
Geraniums bloom in their pots on
the wall.
The brick of the terrace is warm
in the sun,

And the gold fish gleam in their
little pool,
Like children, they live for fun.
As the sun goes down and the val-
ley floods
With every shade of gold;
She who lives here and loves every
bird that sings,
Sits and watches the night unfold.
She has traveled far lands, in
younger days,
Cherished scenes, flood back with
the tide,
She feels that the ship can furl its
sails;
There is peace at Canyonside.

In a series of sketches featuring outstanding local horticulturists—
His Work is His Biography

ALFRED C. HOTTES

Those historic spots, old Fort Stockton and the first Presidio, had been neglected and forgotten until 1928. Sagebrush and tethered goats covered the locality when George Marston decided to restore it and make it a park for the daily happiness of San Diegans. He solicited the services of Roland Hoyt to develop a proper planting. Now it is an area of outstanding beauty—quiet, refined, inspiring. For five years Mr. Hoyt daily dreamed of its future, to make vistas and point up its historic features. The casual observer may not realize that the whole scheme has been planted on this once barren hilltop. The trees and shrubs have come from the four corners of the earth. Some even came from the Balearic Islands, home of Father Junipera Serra.

Now Roland Hoyt is off on a still greater venture, Mission Bay Park, as a consultant with the Planning Commission. "This is considered a marine park and recreational area, probably the largest thing of its kind under development anywhere," he said. "I do hope the people of our area realize its practical importance. San Diego, off in a far corner of the country, must for all time make people and the servicing of people its prime industry. We are not properly located to encourage big business unduly, but we can develop a more pleasant place to visit and in which to live. Here are 4,000 acres, a pledge to this thought, half land and half water, dedicated to the better life that can come only with the fresh clean air and the sunshine with which it has so long been endowed."

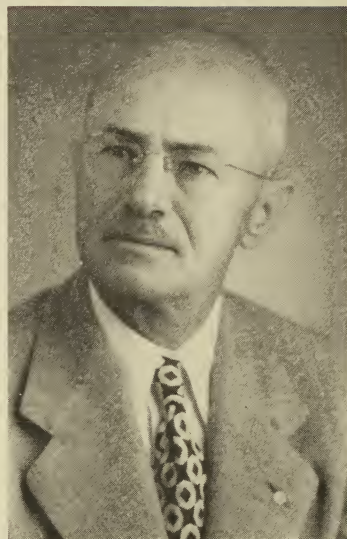
Along with these and other

civic projects he has had time to develop the home grounds of many citizens of our locale. To his credit are scores of the lovely gardens of our area—Coronado, La Jolla, Rancho Santa Fe, Grossmont, Imperial Valley and even Mexico.

Hoyt was born in Iowa City, but at five was taken to Des Moines for rearing. He evinced an interest in gardens from childhood. He remembers, especially, certain filched patches of Lily-of-the-Valley which he once transplanted in a hurried foray, and a seraphic smile spreads over his features when he recalls their fragrance and the wrathful indignation of the owner. He attended Iowa State College and was tempted to remain as an instructor under Frank Cully. Instead, he went to Harvard University to study Landscape Architecture, when World War I beckoned—ordered. He was in the Cavalry, "hoss" cavalry then, a captain on the staff, where he was Aide-de-Camp to General William D. Beach, 88th Division. The war over, he went with Capitol City Nurseries in Des Moines, where he helped develop the State Capitol grounds.

He came to California in 1922, where he assisted in laying out the superb Palos Verdes Estates, with the world-renowned landscape firm of Olmstead Bros. of Boston. In 1926 he came to San Diego.

"I suppose one wonders why I wrote my first book," he remarked. "It all started when an instructor in college attempted to persuade me to take a course in card indexing. I did not do this but my mind was ever after on making notes. The depression came, and with it



less money and more time. I picked up my then considerable file of cards and the result in 1933 was 'Planting Lists for Southern California.' This was the forerunner of the later book 'Check Lists for Subtropical Regions,' which is far more comprehensive." Indeed yes, and it is still the only book anyone in this territory can use for reference to our vast array of plants.

No one on the Pacific Coast has a wider understanding than Hoyt of the ecology and planting value of the great range of subtropical plants which we use in our plantings. Instinctively he knows just what a tree will look like when it matures. He knows when plants will not succeed, for he has an innate reaction to their soil and climatic needs.

He says, "It appears to me that the modern concept of gardens is treading too much to sticks and

See p. 15, col. 1

On a rainy day we find Marion and Henry immersed in polishing andirons, thoughts of Christmas and grandchildren.

Leaves from the Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

Henry leaned against the door jamb. "I have heard," he said, "that a fireplace is considered the focal point of a room."

"Could be," I replied, opening my eyes wide and wrinkling my forehead. I answered from my position on the hearth where I worked to finish my task of polishing the andirons.

Henry continued to take his ease on the door jamb.

"Could you give indoor work to a gardener out of a job on this rainy Saturday?" he asked. We both glanced at the rain sluicing down the living room window.

"Wonderful!" I whispered.

"Glorious," murmured Henry, and added aloud, "It's worth living in an arid country just to experience the thrill of a first rain. You positively taste the damp dust before you finally smell the wet earth."

Sitting on my heels, I gazed at the rain. I held a can of metal polish in one hand and rags of a questionable white in the other. Something must have been conducive to reflection, for I heard myself saying, "As other parts of the country drift into silence under the hushing hand of snow and ice, we in Southern California become noisy and articulate with rain. We gurggle and gush in a grateful rebirth."

Henry, who can only stand a certain amount of reflection, came over and took the can and rags out of my hands. Sitting down tailor fashion on the hearth, he began to clean the brass fender.

I watched him. He applied the polish in a spot as big as a fifty-cent piece. He polished it vig-

orously and sat back to admire his handiwork. This process was repeated a dozen times. Progress at this rate would send us to bed supperless. It was all I could do not to snatch the polish and rags from his hands. I watched for a way out. It came. In a few minutes Henry was humming a gay little tune, to which he put the words, *And the stockings were hung by the chimney with care*

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

"It's several weeks until Christmas," I remarked, "but if you will read me the description of a garden in Palestine, I'll finish cleaning the fender for you."

This, I knew, was much more in line with Henry's general inclinations.

"Where's the book?" he asked, depositing the can and rags in my lap and getting to his feet with unusual alacrity.

"H. V. Morton's 'In the Steps of the Master' is over there on the table. On page 128 I think you will find the description of a garden in Tabgha, which some people think is Bethsaida."

Henry picked up the book, snapped on the lamp, and settled himself comfortably in the armchair. After a prolonged hunt for the page, which involved reading paragraphs here and there that interested him, he finally began to read aloud.

The garden in which the Tabgha Hospice stands is the only patch of cultivated beauty round the Sea of Galilee. From Tiberias it looks like a little dark spot on the lake side, but when you are there the palm trees, the euca-

lyptus wood, the walls of purple bougainvillea, the lemon and the orange trees, the carnations, the eraniums, the Persian lilac, the nasturtiums and the banks of hibiscus flowers, form a little world of their own, a sanctuary made more precious by the bleak, bare hills and the wilderness that lie all round. This garden overflowing with flowers, musical with water, is the only spot round the shores of Galilee in which it is possible to dream for a little of the once luxuriant glory that ringed the western shore in ancient times. The lake as Jesus knew it must have been something like Tabgha."

Here, the back door burst open and the children, plus the neighborhood's young, catapulted into the kitchen undoubtedly in search of an icebox. They were returning from the rehearsal of a Christmas play, and its spirit was evidently still upon them. For after the silence of feeding, they broke into the gaiety of Christmas carols. We were admonished:

*God rest you merrie, Gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay*

And we were told that:

*We three Kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.*

Then David's strong, young soprano voice soloed:

*Away in a manger no crib for
His bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down
his sweet head.*

The brass fender was brighter in the spots where my tears fell.

Henry smiled understandingly. His eyes have the nice quality of looking at you as if they wanted to see you.

We welcome a contribution from Mrs. Annie C. Robinson, widow of the late Alfred D. Robinson who founded the San Diego Floral Association in 1906 and three years later started California Garden, serving as editor for a quarter of a century. Mrs. Robinson, whose husband was world-renowned for his Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, has carved for herself an admirable place in the realm of horticulture.

Fallbrook Arboretum

ANNIE C. ROBINSON

Located behind the coast line hills, in the Northwest corner of San Diego County, where the climate is neither of the coast nor of the inland, is the little village of Fallbrook, and at its picturesque high school one finds a unique project, an arboretum of native California plants, started in April of this year.

This project was the brain child of one of the high school trustees, Robert A. Blecker of De Luz, whose enthusiasm has won the support of the school board, faculty and laymen alike, and as a result, a well-established arboretum on the school grounds has become a reality. It is believed that no other California high school has such a project at present.

To further this project, Theodore Payne, of Los Angeles, California's pioneer plantsman and for over 40 years champion of our natives, was called upon, and a most comprehensive planting was made, including about 150 species which constitute the arboretum at present.

To sustain a continued interest and support, the writer was appointed as permanent representative of the Fallbrook Garden Club, and the club itself acts as sponsor. Sterling Tompkins, local nurseryman, was made cultural director, and with the help of the school ground caretakers, is responsible for maintenance of the arboretum. Mr. Payne makes periodic visits to check its progress.

Planting of conifers consists of our two Redwoods, *Sequoia gigantea* and *sempervirens*, seven kinds

of pines, California juniper, Tecate cypress and incense cedar. Walnut, cottonwood, sycamore, cherry, four kinds of oak, laurel, fremontia, ash, red-bud, California holly and maples make up a considerable list of trees.

Since Ceanothus, or wild lilac, for the most part are indigenous to California, we have a large collection in the arboretum. Many perennial plants, adapting themselves to our conditions, are the buckwheats, encelias, salvias and others. Fall planting of annuals will fill the open spaces for that parade of Spring bloom.

Due to our particular location, we have night fog and sunny days which make it possible to grow everything from the Northern Madrone to the desert willow, and many of the plants will need but little irrigation after the first year. However, irrigation in basins and by overhead sprinkling is a necessity the first season while the

plants are getting a good root system established. Some of our trees and shrubs, such as conifers, dogwood, red-bud, myrtle and snowberry need plenty of water and a good mulch of leaves to keep their roots cool.

Many plans are being made for the utilization of the arboretum besides its function in connection with the agricultural department of the school. The Garden Club used it as its theme at its October meeting, at which Mr. Payne spoke. A "Spring Wild Flower Display" during a whole week in April is on our program. We foresee the arboretum as a future mecca for garden clubs, horticultural groups and others to visit, and we hope that it may prove an inspiration to other schools to do likewise, thereby preserving our God-given heritage, our natives, for the enjoyment of generations to come.



Embryo Arboretum at Fallbrook, planted in April, 1951. California Garden will note the progress of this unique high school project with a follow-up photograph a year from now.

Trust Ada McLouth to find just the right selections to please your horticulturalist friends at Christmas.

New Books for Christmas

ADA McLOUTH

The year has brought us a number of books of the various types that appeal to those who work in, live in, delight in, gardens. There are practical garden books, books on plant specialties, books of mainly scientific interest and books of mainly literary interest.

COLOR AND DESIGN FOR EVERY GARDEN, by H. Stuart Ortloff and Henry B. Raymore. N. Y., M. Barrows and Co., Inc. \$3.50. 1951.

The authors of several standard garden books have produced one intended as a sequel to their "Garden Planning and Building."

Reviewing the principles of site planning and garden layout, they proceed to analyze the fundamentals of plant arrangement in line with the rules applying to other art forms. These rules are set forth clearly and tersely.

Covering succession of bloom, the book proceeds through succession of problems, not only for a year, but for the years and the decades. One chapter deals with the matter of transition, as the place develops from the new garden, full of sun and bright flowers, to the old established garden of larger masses, more shade and root competition. So the green garden evolves.

The thesis progresses naturally from the simplest rules to the more complex. The seasons are covered with suggested groupings by color and variety of plants. Though based in garden practice in the Eastern states there are planting lists for other areas.

A helpful chapter advises in regard to drawing of garden plans and the place of the landscape architect.

WEEDS OF CALIFORNIA. Revised edition. Sacramento, California Department of Agriculture, 1951.

Order from Documents Section, Printing Division. \$5.15 incl. tax.

Originally published in 1922, this revision is the work of the same experts in the fields of botany and weed control. They are associated with the University of California and the State Department of Agriculture.

From grasses to thistles, all the common weeds of California are classified and described, nearly 700 species. There are many photographs and drawings, and 15 color plates.

A valuable manual for botanist or agriculturalist, this book has appeal for the gardener who may wish to identify the odd characters which pop up between the bedding plants or invade from adjoining hillsides. Here are the cockles, teasels, purslanes, nettles. *Marihuana*, *Cannabis sativa*, is pictured and described. We learn that our native larkspurs are all poisonous or suspect, and probably cause more losses among cattle than any other group of plants in California.

GARDENS AND GARDENING; 1951. THE STUDIO GARDENING ANNUAL. Editors: F. A. Mercer and Roy Hay. London and New York, The Studio Publications. \$4. 1951.

Following established custom, this volume deals chiefly with one class of plants; in this case, the bulbous plants. The one general chapter advocates, in line with other trends in Britain, simplifying of design.

Though British gardeners show

great appreciation of California native plants, and there is mention here of *Ceanothus* and *Erithronium californicum*, an odd error occurs: *Romneya coulteri*, the Matilija poppy, is confused with the California poppy.

This annual is illustrated with many photographs, both gardens and flower subjects, and the pictures were made as far afield as New York and New South Wales.

CAMELLIAS, KINDS AND CULTURE, by Harold H. Hume. N. Y., Macmillan \$6.00. 1951.

This beautiful and satisfying book on the camellia includes, besides general material, a chapter on each main group. Some 200 varieties are described. There are eight color plates and many photographs and drawings.

An interesting feature is the inclusion of the code of nomenclature as agreed upon at the Ninth International Conference and published by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1930. This is given in condensed form.

CAMELLIAS IN AMERICA, by Harold H. Hume. Harrisburg, Pa., The Mount Pleasant Press, J. Horace McFarland Co. \$25.

This volume, by the President of the American Camellia Society, is said to be the most complete work on the subject, the result of 30 years of research, observation, personal experience. This first limited edition must be ordered direct from the publisher.

A TO Z ON FUCHSIAS, by the Officers of the California Fuchsia Society. Los Angeles, The Society. \$3.00. 1951.

Each chapter is written by a different person, well-known to
See p. 14, col. 3

Euphorbias

ALFRED C. HOTTES

"Things are seldom what they seem" so goes the words of the patter song by Gilbert and Sullivan. This applies to the great group of Euphorbias in which the plants vary from tiny matlike weeds to hardy, showy flowered perennials with generally grey leaves and yellow flowers. The sorts we grow in California are generally cactus-like.

Unlike most cactus, Euphorbias do not have large, showy flowers with numerous petals and stamens but, if attractive, the color is found in large, often leaflike bracts. Cactus thorns are numerous in clusters, whereas Euphorbia spines are single or in pairs. Whenever a stem or leaf is broken in a Euphorbia a milky juice exudes; not so with most cactus.

Stories: The milky juice is really latex, or rubber. Whole areas of the native habitats have been devastated of them to make rubber, but the ventures have not been successful because the latex contains other substances.

It is said that Mussolini's troops in Abyssinia were less harassed by the Abyssinian soldiers than by the spines of Euphorbias which pierced their flesh and burned their eyes and bodies with the milk they contained. In "The Cactus and Succulent Journal" I read that Euphorbias are being studied in Abyssinia as a source of "vegetable gasoline" to be used as fuel for their tractors.

Through the ages Euphorbias have been considered of value as a purgative known as Euphorbium, or Spurge.

The kinds. There are considered to be 1,000 species, many familiar to us though we never know their names for they are common weeds

wherever we have gardened. When your hands are stained with a milky juice the chance is that the weed is a Euphorbia.

Only a few of the commonest tropical sorts can be discussed here.

Crown-of-thorns, Euphorbia mili (splendens). (Illustrated on the cover) This common plant from Madagascar is a popular house-or lath-house plant. Its rambling branches can be trained on a low trellis or allowed to droop naturally. The branches are beset with long, sharp spines. The leaves are confined to the tips of the branches and are generally an inch long. The flowers are a dark scarlet, consisting of two rather oval, showy bracts with the actual flowers so tiny as to escape attention.

Medusa-head, Euphorbia caput-medusae. In this plant from South Africa the snakelike branches radiate out from a central point and are tipped by clusters of white flowers.

Bighorn Euphorbia, E. grandicornis. This, too, is a South African plant which the uninitiated would surely call a cactus because its four-sided branches are furnished with two-forked spines. Its flowers are not important. Many other species are much like this but the branches are perhaps marked with white, or lighter green, or the branches have more, or fewer, than four sides.

Fat Euphorbia, E. obesa. This curious South African plant is about the size of a baseball—a ribbed globe with brownish markings. Someone has said that the plants resemble a faded Scotch plaid pincushion. Each plant bears either male or female inconspicuous flowers but not both. They are

See p. 15, cols. 2 and 3

Christmas isn't too far away and we are already showing some, at least, of the exciting things we have to suggest for the festive season.

A little later — after Thanksgiving — we will have a sumptuous collection of those Christmas decorations for which we have become famous.

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Do's and Don'ts in Landscaping

CIVIC LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

"Persons trying to plant their own home grounds without a landscape plan frequently make mistakes in design and in the locating of trees and shrubs that add considerable to their construction and maintenance costs," said a landscape architect recently. "For instance," he continued, "lack of knowledge as to which shrubs and trees will require good drainage often leads a property owner to plant drought-resistant Acacia trees and Hakea shrubs in the low parts of the garden where all the water from the lawn collects and stands. After a year or two these colorful plants slow up and stop growing, leading us to ask, 'What happened?'"

Had the garden lover consulted an experienced landscape architect or nurseryman before rather than after planting, he would have learned that there are many choice shrubs that must be planted on the higher parts of the garden where they will have good drainage if they are to thrive, as they cannot endure wet places.

Other common errors include placing the service zone with its clothes line, incinerator, etc. where they can be seen instead of where they can be screened out; or neglecting to plan the house so that there will be a door into the garden from the living portion of the house. These can be avoided through the application of landscape architectural considerations to the design of the home grounds.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Do plan the house and the garden at the same time, so that there is a logical connection between the living or dining portions of the house and the garden itself, such

as a garden porch, terrace or loggia.

Don't plan the gate or door leading into the garden so as to expose all the garden to the view every time you or your guests enter it from the house. A carefully designed landscape plan will allow only a portion of the garden to be seen at first glance, with some parts of it reserved for the surprise element.

Do exercise restraint by avoiding planting too many different varieties or kinds of shrubs or trees, bearing in mind that too many kinds of plants in one area may result in loss of harmony in your garden. Use more plants of one variety, rather than too many varieties.

Don't place Deodars, tall-growing Pittosporums, etc. in front of, or under a living room window where they will grow up and surely block the view, and the light.

Do plan to screen out objectionable scenes such as the rear of your neighbor's yard, the alley, or less attractive features by placing large-growing shrubs and small trees where they will most effectively act as screen plantings.

Do plan to provide an attractive setting for the front of your home by using one or two carefully chosen flowering trees such as the Jacaranda; the Acacia Baileyana; the Yellow Elder (*Stenolobium stans*), or the Victorian Box (*Pittosporum undulatum*). Trees placed behind the house will also aid in securing this objective, and at the same time serve as a background.

Summarizing: Before purchasing shrubs and trees and before

planting them, get in touch with a competent landscape architect and have him design a landscape plan for your grounds. By doing so you will save yourself the labor and cost of reconstructing misplaced walks, terraces and steps, of digging out and transplanting shrubs and trees which may have been planted without thought of their growing requirements, and other items of expense.

Or, if it is not practicable to see a landscape architect, good results can often be secured by sitting down with a pencil and a pad or sheet of cross section paper or with the scale drawing of the floor plan of the house and doing some "thinking with a pencil." After plotting the proposed location of the house, garage and driveway the owner is then in a position to study the best location of the other essential elements that go to make up a well-designed garden.

Books from p. 12

fuchsia fanciers. There is a long list of varieties. The photographs some in color, are clear and beautiful.

ON THE MAKING OF GARDENS, by Sir George Reresby Sitwell; with an introduction by Sir Osbert Sitwell. N. Y., Scribner. \$3.75. 1951.

Written in classic vein, it tempts to quote: "Time is a wayward traveller . . . hours spent in a garden are stolen from Death and from Time . . . To make a great garden one must have a great idea . . . Gardens have coloured every dream of future life . . . It is not given to every man . . . to grow old in a garden he has made."

Roland Hoyt from p. 9

stones. We overlook the fact that the very definition of a garden includes the use of plants. We must not forget the value of living things in a garden, and the inspiration and release which comes from growing plants. The so-called atomic age, an ever increasing artificiality now at hand, will call for closer contact with nature if people are to retain their mental equilibrium. The unsuppressed out-of-doors, National Parks, flowers and dogs, all are needed. This is the tie with the past of the race and has to do with instinct and free evolution. They relate back to the conditions under which our ancestors lived and were healthy. We are gaining more leisure. What shall we do with it if we are to keep mentally sound? A garden is one answer—the garden of the exterior decorator, if you will, but also that of the plantsman.”

Indeed, it may be said of Roland S. Hoyt that his work is his biography. He has spoken wisely and well with his drawing board, his spade and his hoe.

Pelargonium growers will be interested to know that Mrs. Helen K. Krauss has practically completed her book on Pelargoniums. Mrs. Krauss is the author of “Begonias for American Homes and Gardens.” She would like to obtain black-and-white photos of pelargoniums grown in California to use for illustrations in the book. If you have some, will you please get in touch with her right away? The address is: Wynnewood Plaza, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

—The Begonian
November, 1951

Tripartite Fruit

ARTHUR F. FISHER

In reading the book “Egypt and Nubia,” by J. A. St. John, published by Chapman and Hall, London, 1845, I ran across an interesting item, which may be of interest to readers of California Garden.

On page 15, under the heading of Gardens of Boghus Bey, there appears the following:

“The late Boghus Bey, who, though his whole life was spent in political intrigues, cherished a fondness for rural objects, possessed an elegant villa within the walls, surrounded by a large garden, containing a great variety of rare flowers, among which the most remarkable were the carnations, four feet high, the largest and finest perhaps in the world. Here I was shown an extraordinary fruit tree, produced by an ex-

temely ingenious process. They take three seeds—the citron, the orange and the lemon—and carefully removing the external coating from the sides of one of them and from one side of the two others, place the former between the latter and binding the three together with fine grass, plant them in the earth. From this mixed seed springs a tree the fruit of which exhibits three distinct species included within one rind, the divisions being perfectly visible externally, and the flavor of each compartment as different as if it had grown on a separate tree. This curious method of producing a tripartite fruit was introduced by Boghus Bey from Smyrna, his native city, where it is said to have been practiced from time immemorial.”

Euphorbias from p. 13

raised from seed.

Poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. Many are surprised to find this showy Christmas flower in such strange company. The large, leaflike showy bracts are mistaken for the flowers which are really small and yellow in the center of the cluster of bracts. Each group of flowers bears a large, liplike gland at the side which exudes a drop of sweet fluid. We know so many honey-producing and fragrant flowers and we know that this sweetness comes from such glands but in this case the near-blind could see them with a naked eye. Poinsettias are wild in Mexico and Central America.

Culture: The succulent species are from desert regions and store their water when the rainy season comes. Therefore, an excess of moisture, except when in active

growth, is fatal. The soil must never be soggy and poorly drained though some humus may be used.

Poinsettias, the pride of San Diego, grow with no special care along our streets. However, remember these facts of culture:

Any sudden change in temperature or moisture may cause the leaves to drop. Some spots of the garden are always subject to such changes. If neglected all summer, then fed and watered, the leaves mature and fall. Sudden cold winds and hot spells are equally influential.

Cut back the plants, perhaps in May, never earlier. Pruning back severely causes fewer, longer stem flowers; no pruning results in numerous flowers but shabby plants. The blooming date is not influenced by pruning.

Some feeding in summer results in better foliage, longer stems and larger flowers.

Don't ignore your

Garden Chores

ELLIOT ALBRIGHT

Gone, but not forgotten, the Spring and Summer pleasures of beauty in the garden; necessary now—pruning and the chores of cleaning up.

Deciduous trees and shrubs are shedding their green garments, and will stand dormant, and lifeless, till Spring waves her magic wand over them, and presto! new, sweet and mysterious life comes back from the depths of old Mother Earth.

To help things along the best we poor mortals know how, we must cut out the dead, the diseased wood, shorten an overgrown branch here and there, or trim to suit our own fancy. Which, generally, is contrary to all the rules of old Mother Nature.

Pruning may start the end of November. Apricots, peaches, plums, apples, walnuts, nectarines, pears, almonds, prunes, etc., of this nature should be pruned back. In so doing, the fruit clusters grow more to the inside of the tree and the mantle of leaves serves as a better cover and protection from birds and strong sunlight.

Citrus trees should also be pruned. Rank sucker growth should be cut out, along with accumulation of dead wood. Shape

of the tree is dependant on the wishes of the grower. This can be observed by riding through sections of the fruit growing districts. If we observe closely, we will see the citrus trees shaped to allow room for cultivation equipment.

In one's back yard, however, the trees can be as close as 15 feet. With plenty of fertilizer, and compost material, they will repay abundantly for the efforts we exert in their care.

Grapes and thorn berries can be severely pruned this month, along with heavy applications of organic fertilizer. Although the leaves have fallen, the roots are not dormant—they are active, picking up food to produce the buds which will appear shortly after the first of the year. For that reason they should be fertilized now, that the fertilizer can be transformed into available plant food.

If commercial fertilizer is being used, be sure to read the analysis to make certain there is a high percentage of organic ingredients such as seed meals and blood and bone meal. These increase the organisms and increase fertility in general.

Conserve moisture with a heavy coating of grass cuttings, barnyard fertilizer, leaf mold or straw around tree and shrub basins.

With these few efforts put forth, I am sure wonderful results will be your reward.

Bone Meal Beats Superphosphates

In 1939, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station published an extremely important proof of the Organic Method. After a long series of tests comparing bone meal and superphosphate, they decided citrus trees prefer the bone meal. Not only do they prefer it, but they appeared to be really set back by the superphosphate treatments. Most noticeable was "the greatly reduced bearing surface of the trees," naturally meaning a much lower yield.

The reason given by the Florida Station Annual Report, 1939, for this amazing difference is mainly the lack of the trace element magnesium when superphosphate was used as the fertilizer. The soil became so acid that any magnesium which might have been in the soil could not dissolve and be taken up by the trees. Bone meal, however, was alkaline enough to bring the magnesium into solution.

Chemicals Rot Onions

Add chemicals as a fertilizer for onions, and your crop will have a high percentage of rot, says the Long Ashton Experiment Station in England (Annual Report, of 1943). Use farmyard manure alone and the rot will be a good deal less. A well-nourished onion, then will be a well-preserved onion, especially if a long storage time is necessary.

—Organic Gardening
November, 1951

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Roland Wilson, Jeweler

Charles Potter, of Rhododendron, Ore., and Nickolas Shroeder, of Hyacinth, Wash., were named secretary and treasurer, respectively, today of the Northwest Florists' Association.

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